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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY: D. ZACHARY DATE: 7/18/78

RDS[ ] or XD[ ] EXT. DATE:

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS [ ]

DECLASSIFIED [ ] NOT CLASSIFIED [X]

RELEASE DENIED [ ]

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

April 12, 1962

In reply refer to
AV

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

This is in reply to your letter of April 2, 1962 which requested information on the Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 aircraft accident at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

Information available to the Department indicates that the official inquiry into the probable cause of this accident is still in process. No official statements concerning the investigation have been made by the Belgian authorities. The Belgian Investigation Commission is now waiting to receive for review the results of two sets of tests which have been conducted on some pieces of equipment recovered from this aircraft.

Official determinations and announcements bearing on probable cause of such aircraft accidents are usually made in a report after the full investigation has been concluded. However, investigations of such disasters require a considerable length of time before a final report is released by the appropriate authorities. In this case there has been no indication as to when the accident investigation will be terminated.

I will notify you when the accident report is finally issued, and how you may obtain a copy thereof at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Snowdon
Chief
Aviation Division

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P22-1-22 Sabena